

this news with the same gallant, noble, straightforward courage that has marked his entire life. I know because I employed him as a member of the Democratic Policy Committee staff when I was the majority leader of the Senate, and I have seen him in action. I have seen him at work many times.

Mike is a man of lively humor, great heart, idealistic vision, and pragmatic understanding. Despite many years on Capitol Hill, he has never lost his sense of purpose in public service. He has never lost his desire to make the world a better place in which to live. At the same time, he has accumulated the political savvy and acumen to rapidly size up a piece of legislation, weigh its strengths and weigh its weaknesses, and then deliver a succinct analysis on the spot. He has been a fixture on the Democratic bench during debate on many bills.

It seems it was only yesterday that I saw him back here on this bench. I always made it a point to speak to Mike as I went by. It may have been a week ago, it may have been 2 weeks ago, perhaps it was 3 weeks ago, but he was there. And, as I say, just like always, it was as though it was only a few hours ago.

He has shepherded a generation of inexperienced legislative assistants through the arcane minuet of amendment trees, tabling motions, and cloture votes. In this respect, as in so many others, Mike has been outstanding in his commitment to the Senate, to its traditions, and in giving one's best to the Nation. What more can one do?

The Senate is, in many ways, Mike's enduring passion. Legislation is his obsession. He was a "policy wonk" before that phrase was ever coined. His

friends are legion in both parties, and outside the Senate as well as inside the Senate, and outside both parties as well.

Senator WELLSTONE and his staff are part of Mike's extended Senate family. I know that everyone is shocked, just as I was shocked yesterday, at this unexpected news and that all my colleagues join me in offering Mike strength and comfort.

It brings home the memory of that scriptural passage which says:

Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.

He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

Seneca once observed that "there is nothing in the world so much admired as a man who knows how to bear unhappiness with courage." As he bravely faces his toughest battle, Mike Epstein offers to each of us something further to admire and to cherish.

So tonight I shall go home, remembering Mike, sitting back there on that bench, looking at me, smiling.

I close with a short verse by Spencer Michael Free, "The Human Touch," which I believe best captures the warm and caring legacy of Mike Epstein's long and faithful service to the Senate:

'Tis the human touch in this world that counts,

The touch of your hand and mine,  
Which means far more to the fainting heart

Than shelter and bread and wine;  
For shelter is gone when the night is o'er,  
And bread lasts only a day,

But the touch of the hand and the sound of the voice

Sing on in the soul away[s].

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:45 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in adjournment until the hour of 9:45 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:03 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 4, 2000, at 9:45 a.m.

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#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate May 3, 2000:

##### CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

KATHERINE MILNER ANDERSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2006. (REAPPOINTMENT)

##### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

GENERAL JOHN A. GORDON, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR NUCLEAR SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY. (NEW POSITION)

##### BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MARC B. NATHANSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2001. (REAPPOINTMENT)

MARC B. NATHANSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS. (NEW POSITION)

##### MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

BARBARA J. SAPIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2007, VICE BENJAMIN LEADER ERDREICH, RESIGNED.

##### THE JUDICIARY

DENNIS M. CAVANAUGH, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY, VICE ALFRED M. WOLIN, RETIRING.